

## Poem by Kelly A. Malone

### Distant Witness

I don't live close; I did not hear the thunder or the crash. I didn't hear the cries for help or see the metal thrash.

I didn't witness buildings fall. This was on TV. I didn't run from plumes of smoke. I know that wasn't me.

I didn't arrive with photo in hand looking for my wife. I didn't tell my only son his dad has lost his life.

I didn't send my oldest child into a burning tower. To try to save whomever he could and die within an hour.

I cannot say that I was hurt while saving someone's life. I cannot say I've ever lost a daughter, son or wife.

I do not daily pass this site where bodies still decay. While people who must get to work must pass it everyday.

I am not brave; I do not grieve for loss beyond compare. I know I am not a party to the death and the despair.

In some small way I'd like to say I hold you in my heart. Although this won't amount to much I hope it is a start.

There was a part inside of me that died upon that day. I cannot look at life the same or trust in the same way.

## Library of Congress

I look to God to give me strength my trust is in his grace. And deep inside within my soul I  
find a peaceful place.